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6 **UTILITY GARMENT WITH REMOVABLE POCKETS**

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8 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

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10 **Field of the Invention**

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12 [001] This invention relates to items of clothing, more particularly,
13 to items of clothing having removable pockets, more particularly, this
14 invention relates to utility garments to be worn by hospital and medical
15 personnel.
16

1 State of the Art

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3 [002] A variety of pursuits, including healthcare, and the like, can
4 require the wearer of a garment associated with that pursuit to place items in
5 the pockets of the garment he or she wears during such pursuits. Blazers,
6 vests, lab coats and the like may be worn by such wearers. The garments may
7 become soiled or unsuitable for further wear and the pockets and their
8 contents may be wished to be transferred to different garments. Indeed, the
9 pockets may be transferred on the whim of the user, who decides to wear a
10 different outfit for whimsical reasons. Then the contents of all the pockets
11 must be removed and placed into a new garment that may also become
12 unsuitable for further use quickly.

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14 [003] In one example, hospital and other health care workers
15 need to deal with patients on a daily basis. Some of these patients have open
16 wounds or sores, others have contagious diseases, others may be incontinent,
17 and the like. Therefore, the people in the health care industry frequently
18 have to change their outer garments as they become soiled with a variety of
19 unsavory materials.

1 [004] These same workers have to carry a variety of objects, and
2 tools with them as the work. These include stethoscope, thermometers,
3 blood pressure cuffs and the like. Frequently, the workers carry these objects
4 in their pockets. If they have to change their clothes during the day, they also
5 have to empty their pockets and transfer the contents to the new garment.

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7 [005] Similarly, those who work with ill patients and the like may
8 have the need to replace their garments that may become soiled with dirt,
9 water, blood, and the like, and could benefit from easily replaceable pockets.

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12 [006] It would be of great advantage to these workers if they had
13 a protective garment that shielded them from the unsavory materials they may
14 be exposed to, and allowed easy and facile transfer of the objects in their
15 pockets to a new outer protective garment.

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3 ✓ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

4 [007]

5 This invention provides a system for utility garments
6 provides the wearer of a variety of garments including blazers, lab coats, and
7 vests with the option of removing pockets and discarding the garment for
8 disposal or cleaning, while not having to remove the contents of the pockets.
9 The wearers who would benefit from such garments particularly include
10 various medical workers. The pockets may have one or more compartments
11 to place items needed by the wearer during use. In one embodiment the
12 pockets or the garment or both may be disposable to prevent spread of
13 infection and similar problems.

14 [008]

15 In one embodiment this invention provides a system for
16 utility clothing comprising: at least one outer garment shell having a front
17 portion with at least one removable attachment for a pocket disposed
18 thereon; and at least one pocket removably placeable upon each of the at
19 least one removable attachment point on each of the at least one outer
garment shell such that the pocket is exposed to the wearer of the vest for
easy access during wearing.

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[009] In another embodiment, this invention provides an utility garment comprising: an outer garment shell having a front portion with at least one removable attachment for a pocket disposed thereon; and a pocket removably placed upon each of the at least one removable attachment point such that the pocket is exposed to the wearer of the garment for easy access during wearing.

[010] In yet another embodiment, this invention provides a pocket for use in an outer utility garment comprising: a front; a back attached to the front, with at least one opening; and at least one removable attachment point disposed on the back of the pocket such that the opening of the pocket is exposed to the wearer of the garment for easy access during wearing.

1 ✓ BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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3 [011] The Fig shows a front view of a utility vest having removable

4 pockets disposed thereon, with several of the pockets shown removed

5 therefrom.

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8 ✓ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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10 [012] Referring now to the Fig., an outer utility vest 10 has several

11 pockets disposed thereon. Although a vest is described herein, the exact

12 same principle can be used on blazers, lab coats, overcoats, shirts, and the

13 like, made out of many different kinds of materials, including, cotton, wool,

14 synthetic materials including nylon, rayon, dacron, urethane, and

15 combination fabrics that may contain two or more of the previously listed

16 fabrics. The fabric may be tightly woven, loosely woven, knit, woven as a

17 mesh and the like. The material may be of any color, and the pockets may be

18 of the same color or a different color than the garment shell.

19

1 [013] A utility vest 10 of the present invention includes a vest
2 shell 12 that has a front portion shown in the figure, having arm holes for the
3 wearer 14, a neck hole for the wearer 16, and a front closure 18. The front
4 closure may be secured by zippers, buttons, snaps, tie fasteners, and the like.

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7 [014] Four pockets (18, 22, 24, and 26) are shown in the Fig.,
8 although fewer or more may be used in this invention. Each pocket is
9 attached to a removable attachment point on the front of the vest.

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11 [015] In use the vest will have at least one pocket (for example,
12 18, 22, 24, and 26) removably placed upon at least one of the removable
13 attachment points (for example, 32, 36, and 42) such that the pocket is
14 exposed to the wearer of the vest for easy access during wearing. It is, of
15 course, possible that during use by some personnel who will wear the vest,
16 that they will attach only one pocket, although there may be many more
17 attachment points on the vest shell. It should of course be noted that the
18 pockets need not all be removable. In many environments at least one
19 permanent pocket may be useful, or even mandatory.

1 [016] In one preferred embodiment, the vest shell 10 have four
2 removable attachment points thereon. It is also preferred that pockets are
3 placed upon each of the four removable attachment points. The four
4 preferred locations for pockets include the right upper chest area 20 (from
5 the wearer's point of view), on the left upper chest area 26, on right waist
6 area 22, and on left waist area 24. It is preferred, although not required, that
7 the pockets be reusable, since the purpose of the pockets is to allow the
8 loading of pockets and the use on more than one garment. It will be noted
9 that the pockets are all shown attached by different means in the
10 accompanying Fig. The variety of attachment means is for illustration
11 purposes only. In actual use it would be greatly preferred to use only one
12 type of attachment means. Moreover, all the pockets on the illustrative
13 garment are shown to be removable. In any real garment of this invention,
14 there may be one or more pockets permanently affixed to the garment.

15
16 [017] One preferred method of attaching pockets is by use of
17 hook and loop material (for example Velcro®). A pocket may have hook and
18 loop material disposed on its back (not shown in the Fig.) for attachment to
19 hook and loop material 24 disposed on the vest shell. In the Fig., the hook

1 and loop material is shown as strips sewn or otherwise secured to the vest
2 shell. When the vest shell becomes soiled, the wearer unfastens the hook and
3 loop material, discards that vest shell, for cleaning or disposal, and reattaches
4 the pocket to another clean vest shell.

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6 [018] Another method of attachment of a pocket 26 is by pressure
7 sensitive snaps 42. At least one pressure sensitive snap disposed on the back
8 of the pocket 26 may mate with another disposed on the front of the vest
9 shell 12. When the vest shell becomes soiled, the wearer unfastens the snaps,
10 discards that vest shell, for cleaning or disposal, and reattaches the pocket to
11 another clean vest shell.

12
13 [019] Yet another method of attachment of a pocket 24 is by
14 buckle assembly 38 and 36. The buckle assembly may be of any size and type
15 that allows the use of the front of the vest by the user. Although two buckle
16 assemblies used to secure the pocket to the vest shell are shown in the Fig.,
17 only one need be used to secure the pocket to the vest shell 12.

1 [020] Each of the pockets (20, 22, 24, and 26) may have more than
2 one compartment disposed therein (as shown in the Fig. for 20, 22, and 26).
3 For example, a pocket 26 may have a single compartment 44 suitable for use
4 by a pen or other writing instrument. Alternatively, a pocket 22 may have a
5 plurality of compartments 34. Otherwise, a pocket 20 may have two or more
6 compartments 28 and 30 for convenience, or even for the fashionable look
7 such a divided pocket may provide.

8
9 [021] As shown, the plurality of compartments 34 in the pocket
10 22 may be used for transport of blood or other biological samples. In
11 modern medical practice, contact with blood is scrupulously avoided by
12 medical personnel; therefore, it is preferred to use pockets fabricated from
13 disposable material for these pockets. Alternatively, any of the items used by
14 medical personnel may be stowed in specially designed compartments. For
15 example, this invention contemplates the use of compartments specially
16 made for pagers and cell phones, thermometers, probes, examination lights
17 and other sources of illumination, and the like.

1 [022] As noted above, pockets intended to be devoted to uses
2 involving extensive blood work are probably best disposed after use.
3 However, it in one preferred embodiment of this invention, all pockets are
4 made to be disposed. It is contemplated that the outer vest shell of the utility
5 vest be washable, and reusable after use. However, it may be that the most
6 efficient way to use the vest of the present invention is to dispose of the
7 entire vest shell after each use.

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9 [023] This invention also contemplates a pocket for use in an
10 outer utility garment. Such a pocket will have a front, a back attached to the
11 front, with at least one opening; and at least one removable attachment point
12 disposed on the back of the pocket such that the opening of the pocket is
13 exposed to the wearer of the garment for easy access during wearing. The
14 pocket may be disposable or reusable. It may include more than one
15 compartment defined within it, and it may have a closure flap 46 or similar
16 privacy device attached thereto. Here the flap is closed by a button 48,
17 although snaps, hook and loop material, and like methods may be used for
18 pocket closure. If it has multiple compartments defined there within, these
19 compartments may be specially made to carry pagers and cell phones,

1 thermometers, probes, examination lights and other sources of illumination,
2 and the like

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4 [024] The garment and the pockets may be made from the same
5 material or from different materials. These materials may be woven or non-
6 woven, and may be made from, cotton, linen, wool, rayon, nylon, polyester,
7 or combinations of the various fabrics. They may be fabricated from wood
8 derived non-woven materials for disposal. Other materials are possible, for
9 example, polyurethane, polyethylene both as a sheet and woven from thread
10 made from the material, and the like, but of course, some concession to the
11 comfort of the wearer must be made in the choice of fabric or fabrication
12 material. Obviously if the garment is to be reusable, it needs to be made of
13 more robust material that will tolerate the various cleaning processes that may
14 be used to cleanse the garment.

15
16 [025] The garment may include adjustment means on the sides so
17 more than one size person may comfortably wear the garment.

1 [026] It should be noted that the system contemplated as one
2 aspect of this invention, includes a plurality of garments, including blazers,
3 lab coats, vests and the like and a plurality of pockets that may be transferred
4 from one garment to another.

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6
7 [027] This invention has been described with reference to specific
8 examples and embodiments. A variety of modifications, alterations, and
9 changes will suggest themselves to one of ordinary skill in the art. The
10 appended claims are intended to encompass all such modifications,
11 alterations, and changes.